

## Welcome to Lewis & Clark County Extension

The Extension Service is a partnership of Lewis & Clark County, Montana State University and the United States Department of Agriculture. The three-way partnership provides educational programs in the areas of Agriculture/Natural Resources, 4-H/Youth Development, Community Development and Family Consumer Sciences. Lewis & Clark County Extension is located on the west side of the Exhibit Hall at the Fairgrounds. This location provides easy access, good parking and a friendly atmosphere for the public.



*Brent Sarchet, Janet Cerovski, Catherine McNeil and Allison Flynn*

## New Educators Join Lewis & Clark County Extension

Lewis & Clark County Extension wishes to thank Quinn Holzer and Larry Hoffman for their years of service to the program. Quinn resigned after five years of successfully working to improve the 4-H and youth programs. Larry retired after forty years of working in agriculture and natural resources. Thank you to your dedication to Lewis & Clark County!

### Agriculture/Natural Resources Extension Agent

In February 2010, Brent Sarchet started as the new agent. Originally from Nebraska, he has lived in Montana for three years. Brent graduated from the University of Wyoming with a BS and MS in Agriculture Science. He worked at the Montana Department of Agriculture before joining MSU Extension.

### 4-H/Youth Development Extension Agent

Allison Flynn started as the new agent in June 2010. She grew up in Townsend and graduated from Montana State University with a BS and MS in Agriculture Education, emphasizing in Extension. She worked as a 4-H Educator in Sheridan County, Wyoming before joining MSU Extension.

### 4-H Military Program Coordinator

Catherine McNeil joins the team through a grant provided to MSU Extension to encourage military youth to participate in the 4-H program. Catherine has been a 4-H volunteer and leader for nine years, in addition to holding officer positions on the 4-H Council Executive Board.



*Shooting Sports Volunteer Leader, Susan Mitchell, coaches 4-H member, Alicia Zimmerman, at 4-H Camp.*

## Making a Difference in the Lives of Youth

Lewis & Clark County Extension strives to make a difference in the lives of youth through various programming efforts. In 2010, Extension educators reached nearly 800 youth in Lewis & Clark County through educational programs using the following methods:

- Organized 4-H Clubs – 398 members
- School Enrichment Programs – 206 youth
- Day Camping Programs – 141 youth
- School Aged Child Education Programs – 94 youth
- Overnight Camping Program – 74 youth
- Special Interest/Short-Term Programs – 6 youth



### Supported by

Lewis and Clark County  
Commissioners

Michael Murray  
Andy Hunthausen  
Derek Brown



# 4-H/Youth Development



## 4-H Teens Succeed

Lewis & Clark County 4-H has made it a priority to target high school youth and create an environment where teens can be successful. Nationwide 13% and statewide 27% of 4-H youth are 14 to 19 years old. In Lewis & Clark County, 31% of youth enrolled in 4-H clubs are 14 to 19 years old. There are a variety of opportunities for teens, such as Ambassador Program, Teen Leaders Group, Junior Fair Superintendents, Paintball Project and Camp Counselors.

These opportunities allow teens to learn life skills such as leadership, communication and community involvement. Camp Counselors are challenged by leading camp activities, organizing workshops and being a positive role



*4-H Teen Leaders, Skyler Mitchell and Jeffrey & Jasper Eshelman lead a workshop on the 4-H Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program at 4-H Camp.*

model for campers. Ambassadors serve as representatives of the County 4-H program by speaking to the media and leading workshops. Local 4-H teenagers gave back to Fairgrounds users by painting and sanding panels at the Fairgrounds this year. Through the opportunities provided by Lewis & Clark County 4-H, teens are building skills that will last a lifetime.

## Learning Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) through 4-H Robotics

4-H has grown and expanded throughout the years to meet the changing needs of society. This led to the expansion of new 4-H project areas. In 2010, 19 youth in Lewis & Clark County participated in the 4-H robotics project. Using LEGO robots, youth learned about SET through programming robots, engineering designs, problem solving and teamwork.

4-H members formed a team to participate in the FIRST LEGO League competition. Coached by 4-H volunteer, Eli Booth, the nine member team worked together throughout the year and traveled to Bozeman to compete. After a successful event, the team brought home a first place programming award. In addition to the SET skills learned, 4-H members also gained life skills in teamwork, communication and decision making.

## Supporting Military Youth

Lewis and Clark County has almost 900 military youth. 4-H Military Program Coordinator Catherine McNeil provides educational opportunities specifically targeting these youth. By partnering with Operation Military Kids (OMK) and other community organizations, such as the Holter Museum and Montanans Supporting Soldiers, services have been provided to more than 140 military youth.



*Participants in the Day Camp at Fort Harrison learn about rocketry.*

This has been accomplished through a variety of different programs and activities, including:

- Partnering with the National Guard to do a week-long day camp for 4-H and military youth.
- Providing various 4-H project activities at a local after-school program.
- Providing support and projects at two Yellow Ribbon events in Helena.
- Partnering with Lewis and Clark County Stampede and Fair to support Military Appreciation Day at the Fair.
- Partnering with Military OneSource at a National Guard Family Day to videotape family messages to deployed soldiers.
- Providing projects and support to the Navy Family Day at Fort Harrison.
- Offering an Assignment: Military Kids (AMK) training, where more than 20 area educators attended to learn about the effects of deployment on youth.
- Supporting a Speak Out For Military Kids event. Several youth did projects to "Tell Your Story" about having a deployed parent. One group from the County did a children's book that has been published and another wrote a poem telling their deployment story.



*Brianne Wade and Taylor Sprenger learn about livestock through a local afterschool program.*

Through reaching out to military youth and educating others, programs can provide support to the many families affected by having a loved one in the military.



**MONTANA**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

EXTENSION

[www.msuextension.org](http://www.msuextension.org)



# Agriculture, Natural Resources and FCS

## Master Gardener Program Off and Running

This spring Level I and Level II of the Master Gardener Series were offered in Lincoln and Helena, and it was well received by the County. A local flare was added to the course by having local horticulture experts come and talk with the class. People attending the class appreciated the opportunity to ask the local experts questions about gardening in Lewis & Clark County.



*Over 70 people attended Level I this Spring.*

Frequent comments from class participants included: "I am utilizing the information I learned everyday" and "I am able to help my neighbors with their gardening and landscaping questions and projects."

Class participants have lent their expertise, knowledge and sweat with various gardening and landscaping projects throughout the County including collaboration work with the Growing Community Project, Exploration Works and Splashes of Joy. The Master Gardeners hosted a booth at the Helena Farmers' Market on Saturday and Tuesday answering gardening questions, helping identify insects and plants, and handing out MontGuides.



*Carol Ballew, Level II Master Gardener, helping with the booth at the Helena Farmers' Market.*

## Producers Add Value to Their Forage Crop Through the NWSFF Program

Over 450 acres of alfalfa, grass and barley hay were certified through the Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage Program. Producers with certified forage are able to receive a premium price for their hay, \$10 - \$30 more per ton.

## Extension Office Assists the Public in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Disease Identification

The first step in IPM is identifying the pest. Over 300 insects and plants were brought into the office for identification. After proper identification, management options were provided on the specific pest(s). Proper identification can save people hundreds of dollars in possibly unnecessary herbicides or insecticides. The Office also made over 50 house visits throughout the County helping identify plant diseases, identify insects and identify plants. Tree disease was a primary concern among the public this year.

## Lincoln Community Garden

Some Lincoln residents who took the Level I Master Gardener Class in the Spring, with some assistance from the Extension Office and other community members, turned an idea into reality. What was once an idea shared between three Lincoln residents was turned into reality with the construction of a community garden for the Lincoln community and school. Ground breaking and construction of the greenhouse and raised beds started in September in preparation for growing next Spring.



*Lincoln Community Garden Founders, Courtney Crowell, Jackie Heinert and Michele Kegel, with Brent Sarchet.*

## Food Preservation Workshop Teaches People How to Safely Preserve Their Food

Over 40 people attended a food preservation workshop at the Fairgrounds this summer. Preserving food, whether from the garden or from fall wild game harvest, is of increasing importance to people in Lewis & Clark County. In difficult economic times the knowledge and reference material gained through the workshop will help families save money on food costs and enable their families to eat nutritious food throughout the year.

## Pasture and Forage Management Workshop

MSU Specialists came to Lewis & Clark County and presented a workshop on methods and economics of establishing and maintaining pastures and forages. The workshop was offered in Augusta and Helena. By understanding how to establish new pastures and forages and by understanding the bottom line, landowners can make their land more productive, thus leaving more money in their pocket at the end of the year.

## Extension Office Partners with Local Credit Unions

Helena Community Credit Union, Rocky Mountain Credit Union, TRICO Credit Union and the Extension Office offered a workshop on consumer credit and the new credit card laws. The event was hosted in the lecture hall on the University of Montana-Helena Campus. Especially in these tough economic times, people valued the educational tools and resources provided through the workshop.

## Master Gardeners and 4-H Clubs Experience Hands-On Learning Through Building Raised Beds at the Fairgrounds

Level I Master Gardeners, two 4-H clubs, the Fairgrounds and the Extension Office built raised beds at the Fairgrounds south of the new Exhibit Hall. Local businesses including: Marks Lumber, Marks Post and Pole, Valley Farms, Chadwick's Nursery, Knox Flowers, High Country Growers, Power Townsend, Valley Sand and Gravel, and Helena Sand and Gravel donated the building materials and flowers for the project. This was a great collaborative learning experience for everyone involved. The project will be expanded next year to include at least six more raised beds.



### Contact Us



Lewis & Clark County

[www.msuextension.org](http://www.msuextension.org)

#### Brent Sarchet

Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Agent

#### Allison Flynn

4-H/Youth Development Extension Agent

#### Catherine McNeil

4-H Military Program Coordinator

#### Janet Cervoski

Administrative Assistant

#### Lewis & Clark County Extension

100 W Custer  
Helena MT 59602

Phone (406) 447-8346  
E-mail [lewisclark@montana.edu](mailto:lewisclark@montana.edu)  
Web <http://www.co.lewis-clark.mt.us/departments/extension.html>

Montana State University Extension is an ADA/EO/AA Veteran's Preference Employer and provider of educational outreach.

